



News Release

Horicon

National Wildlife Refuge

W4279 Headquarters Road, Mayville, WI 53050

920/387 2658 FAX: 920/387 2973 <http://midwest.fws.gov/horicon/index.htm>

NEWS RELEASE

March 29, 2012

New Project Leader for Horicon/Leopold Complex

Mayville – Steven (Steve) J. Lenz recently assumed the role of Project Leader for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Horicon/Leopold Complex. For the last 16 years, he has been the District Manager of the Leopold Wetland Management District (WMD) based out of Portage, WI with the responsibility of managing the habitat for wildlife on waterfowl production areas (WPAs) located in 17 counties throughout Wisconsin.

Originally from Neenah, WI, Steve developed his appreciation for wildlife by watching the “rafts” of canvasbacks, bluebills, and other divers on the Lake Winnebago system as a kid.

After graduating from UW - Stevens Point with a Wildlife Management degree, he was able to direct his passion for wildlife toward a professional career by accepting employment as a biological technician with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Horicon National Wildlife Refuge. During the last thirty years, he has been involved in all aspects of refuges and wildlife management in various field level positions in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, and Ohio including a 6 year stint with the U.S. Department of the Army in Utah.

When time allows, he enjoys spending as much time outdoors as possible pursuing interests like gardening, traveling, and camping with his wife – Cheryl. Hunting and fishing with family and friends also rates pretty high on his “to do” list.

The Horicon Complex is comprised of the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge (22,000 acres) in Mayville, WI; the Fox River National Wildlife Refuge (1,054 acres) in Montello, WI; and the Green Bay (330 acres) and Gravel Island (27 acres) National Wildlife Refuges located in Lake Michigan near Washington Island, WI. After the retirement of Horicon’s former Project Leader, the existing Horicon Complex was combined (complexed) with the Leopold Wetland Management District – 57 waterfowl production areas (13,000 acres total) with Steve as the new Project Leader for both stations. He will oversee twenty-two staff who will work to manage wildlife, habitat, and recreational opportunities on these areas within the complex.

The complexing will not affect current access or recreational opportunities on the waterfowl production areas or refuges within the complex.

According to Steve: "The opportunity for me to assume the project leader position after Patti Meyers retired evolved at a time of austere budgets. After an extensive evaluation of whether the Horicon complex and the Leopold Wetland Management District could be as efficient with one project leader, it was decided that combining the two stations and integrating both staffs would maximize fiscal and operational needs".

Steve also maintains that "The circle of my professional life, beginning and now returning to Horicon Marsh is a great sense of accomplishment. When I flash back to days of 1977 as a fledgling biological technician, I wondered why anyone would pay me to do the work I was destined to do. Dear to many of us, the life on Horicon Marsh goes deep. I am honored to be the new Complex Leader and to share the wildlife and habitat with staff, neighbors, volunteers, and visitors. I know passion, dedication, perseverance, and hard work will continue. I'm glad to be part of the Horicon/Leopold team". Steve encourages anyone to call with questions or concerns regarding management of these areas within the complex and may be reached at the Horicon refuge office located at W4279 Headquarters Road, Mayville, WI; 920-387-2658 ext. 11 or Steve_Lenz@fws.gov.

###

Contact: Steve Lenz
Phone: 920-387-2658 ext. 11